



DHS Matters!

Michigan Department of Human Services • Lansing, Michigan • February 16, 2007

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Submit stories by e-mail to DHS-Newsletter@michigan.gov



Gathering for the troops are (left-right) **Genia Boynton**, **Pamela Johnson**, **Karen Brunson**, **Valerie Hobson** and **Eloise Williams**.

From Detroit with love

Holiday package to soldiers in Iraq raised spirits on two continents

From Eloise Williams, CFS Central Operations

Wayne County Child and Family Services, Detroit

WilliamsE6@michigan.gov

A big effort for our soldiers overseas started when Veronica Watson, who works at DHS—Macomb Mt. Clemens District, sent an email from her son in the military. In the message, SFC Kelvin Jordan included a list of requested items by his platoon of two women and 63 men. SFC Jordan said he wanted nothing for himself just for his platoon. He said care packages help to keep up their morale.

This was the starting point for a special project supported by our district manager, **Georgia Cambell**. It's not every day that I have a direct connection to a whole platoon of soldiers, where I can get direct feed back, and know precisely what they wish for us to send. As a result we collected and mailed seven care packages (full boxes) and collected a total of \$435.66 for prepaid phone calling cards and shipping.

"I was so happy I almost cried when I read this," Veronica Watson said Dec. 19. "I called Val, Kel's wife, to tell her about this. She is also happy for your support of the troops. I am sending Kel your email so he will know who to contact and I will send a thank you card myself. Thanks again."

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From Detroit with love

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Special thanks to volunteers who assisted in this project – [Valerie Hobson](#), [Karen Brunson](#), [Pam Johnson](#), [Genia Boynton](#), [Patricia Mattson](#), [Yvonne Leone](#), [Lisa Lee](#), [Vincent Fulton](#) and [Morris Farr](#). Special thanks to all Central Operations staff - we couldn't have done it without you.

Central Operations employees were glad to have an opportunity in helping to keep SFC, Kelvin Jordan and his platoon morale up while serving in Iraq. Thank you, SFC Kelvin Jordan, for making this possible. Keep up the good work. Through this gesture we wish all of our troops a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Elsewhere around Michigan at DHS offices...

Local association pitches in for Berrien County foster kids

From Pamela Gabriel, Program Manager Berrien DHS, Benton Harbor
GabrielP@michigan.gov

Recently the Southwestern Michigan Association of REALTORS Inc. presented [Carolyn](#)

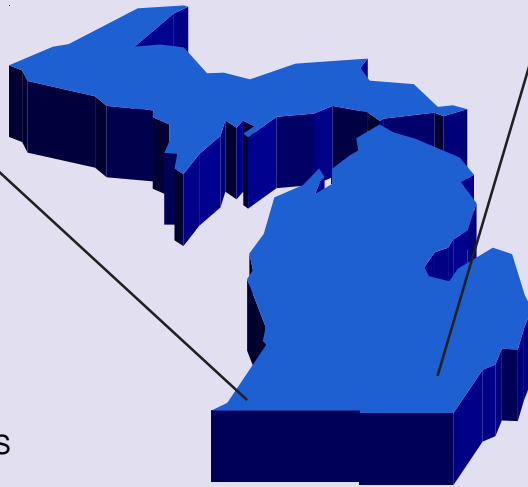
[Frank](#), community resource coordinator at the Berrien County Department of Human Services, with 80 duffle bags and personal care items designated for foster care children in the care of the Berrien DHS. This donation was made as part of their "Suitcases for Kids" project.

In addition to the duffle bags and personal care items the realtors also donated more than \$2,600 to be used throughout the year to cover special needs of the foster kids such as camp, sports fee, prom attire and more.

"Suitcases for Kids" is a national non-profit program that began in 1995 and has become an international program providing suitcases and personal items for children in need. Many children who enter foster care have few personal belongings and nothing more than garbage bags to carry them in. This program provides them with duffle bags or other sturdy luggage to place their personal belongings in.

The Berrien County Department of Human Services is very grateful for the donation of these bags and personal care items. The generosity of the association is much appreciated and will have a very positive impact on the foster children we serve.

■ For more about "Suitcases for Kids" go to www.suitcasesforkids.org/ The Southwestern Michigan Association of REALTORS is a professional trade association for real estate licensees and provides other services for the real estate industry.



Oakland County went to the dogs....and the dogs couldn't have been happier!

From Lynn Contreras, Community Resource Coordinator
Oakland County DHS, Bloomfield Hills
ContrerasL@michigan.gov

Oakland County staff joined in fundraising efforts for the first ever "Mega March for the Animals" held in October in downtown Detroit. This fundraising event was sponsored by the Michigan Humane Society.

With a history dating back to 1877, the Humane Society can be proud of what they have been able to accomplish for the animals that they serve in southeast Michigan and we are certainly proud of our staff that raised \$1,340.00 for this worthwhile cause!

Oakland County Saginaw Street (District 4) office took the "top dog" prize by raising \$700 and the Baldwin Road District office came in second with \$445.

Staff had lots of fun raising money for this cause. Some of the activities at District 4 included a "hot dog and kit kat" lunch and a "guess who I belong to" contest. Is it true that pets resemble their owners? Hmmm....one of my doggies is a "blonde" lab.

In total, the Michigan Humane Society raised over \$200,000 to benefit the animals. There were over 3,000 actual participants in the march.

The awareness and funds raised will enable the society to expand their programs and services to reach beyond the more than 100,000 animals that they currently serve each year and allows them to continue investigating animal cruelty, sheltering and providing medical care and teaching children about the importance of kindness to animals.

We are definitely looking forward to next year – this was great fun!!



Family Caregiving... It's not all up to you.

FAMILY CAREGIVING 101

Message Board

Assist a Caregiver

Public Policy & Media

About Family Caregiving 101

Top 10 Questions
Where do you start?

Stages of Caregiving
Where are you on your family
caregiving journey?

How to Manage
Review steps and checklists to
prepare for caregiving
responsibilities.

You Are Not Alone
Find out why one in five adults
is considered a family caregiver.

Caring to Help Others
Access a comprehensive
training manual developed by
Eisai for preparing volunteers to
visit caregivers of older adults.

Find Help
Search through our resources
to find the help you need.

Refer A Caregiver
Send a note to someone you
think may need help, but
doesn't know how to ask for it.

Welcome to the Family Caregiving 101 Web site. If you're caring for a loved one who is ill or disabled, this site was created for you. It's a great place to find assistance, answers, new ideas and helpful advice — for you and your loved one.

Where do you start? Try clicking on the **Top 10 Questions**.



Learn About Family
Caregivers
Read about family
caregivers with similar
challenges and how they
addressed them.

©2004 National Family Caregivers Association and the National Alliance for Caregiving
This non-profit Web site has been made possible by the generous support of Eisai, Inc.

Tools for caregivers – www.FamilyCaregiving101.org/team5

From Nicole Lisabeth

Michigan State University Public Relations Student Society of America

PRSSA@msu.edu

As part of the MSU Public Relations Student Society of America, our team would like your assistance in raising awareness about family caregiving and available resources to help reduce the emotional and physical burnout caregivers often experience.

DHS staff members can play an integral role in reaching family caregivers in Michigan and informing them about available resources at www.familycaregiving101.org/team5, a Web site created for anyone providing care for a loved one who is ill or disabled.

Some facts about family caregivers and caregiving:

- A family caregiver is someone age 18 and older who provides unpaid care for a terminally ill or aging family member or friend 18-years or older.
- One in five adults provides unpaid care to a loved one resulting in more than 960,000 caregivers in Michigan and 50 million caregivers in the U.S.A.
- Michigan caregivers spend more than 1 billion hours annually on caregiving that translates to more than \$9 billion in terms of regular work.
- Family caregivers provide approximately 80 percent of all long-term care services, forming an invisible health care workforce.
- The market value of extensive hands-on caregiver services is worth \$306 billion per year.

During February we invite current and future caregivers to attend an informative Family Caregiving Fair to learn about available resources and speak with organizations about family caregiving. The fair is Saturday, Feb. 24 from 1-5 p.m. at the Capitol Area District Library Main Branch, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. We also encourage you to nominate a family caregiver who should be recognized for the hard work they do each and every day. You can submit a 200-word essay to nominateacaregiver@gmail.com explaining why they should be acknowledged.

Thank you for your time and we encourage you to join our efforts in raising awareness of family caregiving and available resources. Please contact us for further information at PRSSA@msu.edu

Date: Jan. 29
To: Gerene H. Janeczko
Western Wayne Child & Family Services, Taylor
Subj: Jeannine Benedetti

I am a foster parent for the Department of Human Services. I recently have had the pleasure of working with Jeannine Benedetti, when we accepted three children into our home last September.

I just wanted to let you know that Jeannine is a pleasure to work with and she truly does a wonderful job. I can't remember working with such a caring and sincere social worker in a long time.

I would appreciate you adding this letter to her employment file and considering it when evaluating her worth as an employee. The children of Michigan need her and more just like her.

Thank you

Kathryn Kallio

Livonia

■ Jeannine Benedetti is a social services specialist with Western Wayne CFS and Gerene Janeczko is her supervisor.

Your letters,
intercepted
and otherwise

Customer letters praising employees are very popular with other employees. To submit a customer letter for publication:

1. Ensure your supervisor knows about this and approves.
2. Have the customer sign **Consent for Publication** form, which is downloadable from the MS Word template as form **0199.dot**
3. Send the letter and a copy of the signed consent form to me by e-mail or by fax (517-373-8471).
4. Include the letter writer's hometown and the job classification(s) of the employee(s) cited in the letter.

If there are any questions about the letter after that I will contact you.

Larry VanDeSande
Editor, DHS Matters!

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QuickKnowledge course: Ethics in Business

Contact Janet Waterstradt
DHS Office of Professional Development
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An editing error in the Jan. 26 issue excluded important information on one QuickKnowledge course.

Ethics in Business will help you make ethical decisions in situation like this: You're having a party at home tonight and you need only a few pieces of paper for one of the games. It would be a lot easier to take a dozen sheets from the copy machine than to stop by the store on the way home. It's quicker, too. What would you do?

QuickKnowledge courses are available at no cost to all DHS employees. Each course takes about one hour to complete and can be done at the employee's convenience. To access QuickKnowledge courses at DHS-Net click on "Department Websites", "Office of Professional Development" and "QuickKnowledge Courses" under "Learn It Now."



DHS Matters! is a product of Michigan's Department of Human Services
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